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This spring we caught a school of mackerel and dogfish, and after we had picked out the mackerel we had about 100 barrels of dogfish left. It consumed a great deal of time, and we had some damage done to the fish and our seine. Last year we lost at least \$2000 worth of fish by dogfish attacking our seine on the outside after we had mackerel in it. In the fall when we are fishing for pollock we are bothered more or less the first of the season.—Ralph Webber, Gloucester, sch. Marguerite Haskins, 18 men.

I have been hand lining on Georges, Brown's, La Have and Western banks for thirty years, and dogfish are getting so plenty that at times it is almost impossible to fish, and we have to return with small trips. They seem to come earlier and stay later each year. There are times when we could lay and fish on a small quantity of fish, but dogfish eat our bait before we can get a fair trip. I think we could make at least \$50 more per man each season if we were not bothered so much with dogfish.—Benjamin Johnson, Gloucester, sch. Lawrence Murdock, 14 men.

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## THE DOGFISH PEST.

### Reports of Captains and Others on Depredations.

#### Commission Received 195 Reports From This City.

In order that its research and report on the damage caused by dogfish to the fisheries of Massachusetts should be as thorough as possible and that facts should come direct from the men affected by these pests, the Massachusetts fish and game commission sent out circulars to the captains of fishing vessels and boat fishermen, as well as trap and weir men along the coast, which were taken to these men personally by special agents of the commission. From this, 581 replies were received and at the end of each circular was a space for remarks in general regarding the pests. Of these reports received, 195 were from this city, and believing them of considerable importance and interest, the TIMES will print a portion each day until all have been given to our readers.

The reports follow:

#### NUMBER FOUR.

Capt. Alfred Green of sch. "Flirt of Gloucester," which arrived at Boston, October 19, 1905, from a fishing trip in South Channel, states that he lost \$50 worth of gear by sharks. He fished 70 miles southeast by south of Highland Light, in about 70 fathoms of water.

Sch. Illinois of Gloucester, Capt. John Lowrie, which arrived at Boston, October 17, 1905, reports losing \$100 worth of trawls by getting into a large school of dogfish. He fished in South Channel in about 70 fathoms. He caught at least 10,000 dogfish on this voyage alone. He lost 20 tubs of trawls, which will have to be replaced by new gear.

Sloop Laura Enos of Gloucester, Capt. E. J. Rose, which arrived at Boston September 9 from Jeffreys Bank, had 5000 pounds of fresh pollock from hand-line pollock fishing. She would have had twice this amount of fish had the dogfish not been so plenty. She lost about 430 hooks.

Sch. Alena L. Young, Capt. Charles Nelson of Rockport, arrived at Boston August 26 from Jeffreys Bank pollock fishing, hand-line fishing. This vessel was out on the voyage ten days, and the crew of 10 men shared only

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34 cents each, owing to the fact that dogfish were numerous on the fishing ground. Broken ribs like this discourage the men, and often they leave the vessel.

The following is a statement by Deputy Capt. Benjamin A. Foster, on the commission's launch Egret, covering the month of July:

I have seen almost every trap hauled between Nahant and Rockport, and I saw but one large lot of dogfish, and that was the trap at Dana's Island. There was in this haul about 75 barrels, which were taken off shore and thrown away. I saw one boat off Halfway Rock. I watched the hauling of the trawls for one-half hour, and, as near as it was possible for me to tell, he caught 250 dogfish and not much of anything else, for there were a dozen small codfish and haddock, mostly eaten up. The shore fishermen complain that they are having lots of trouble with them. There were some in every trap I saw hauled, but in most of them not enough to be very troublesome. In the Kettle Island trap they had five barrels of "bluebacks," 42 dogfish and not much of anything else.

The special agents of the commission interviewed 584 fishermen, from Newburyport to Newport, including masters of vessels, shore, net, trawls and hand line, and trap and weir fishermen. These agents asked questions designed to secure free, full and accurate replies to the questions below. This information has been tabulated. The questions and the results of the tabulated returns are as follows:—

Apparatus used (specify kind of apparatus used, and number of each kind).

Hand lines, 6,833; nets, 8,224; gills, 1,536; tubs, 8,915; trawls, 1,742; weirs, 45.

How many pounds do you consider your average total annual catch of edible and bait fish?

194,915,050.

What do you consider a fair estimate of your annual catch of dogfish?

27,687,150.

Is this number a guess, or is it estimated on actual counts for a week or a month?

Fair estimate.

During what months is the smooth dogfish present?

April to December; most numerous in May and June and October to December.

Practically limited to waters south of Cape Cod.

During what months is the spiny dogfish present?

April to December in all waters off shore, to 50 to 75 fathoms.

Do dogfish damage your apparatus?

Yes, 586; no, 3.

What do you consider a fair estimate of the annual damage done by dogfish to your seines, nets, trawls, bait handlines, weirs, traps?

Seines, \$6350; nets, \$27,181; trawls, \$58,998 50; bait, \$56,458; handlines, \$10,830; weirs, \$1000; traps, \$100; total, \$160,817 50.

Is the above fair a guess, or is it based up on actual records of expenses caused by dogfish, of loss of material and of time spent in repairs?

Fair estimate, 475; guess, 89.

Are many fish caught by your apparatus eaten or bitten by dogfish so as to destroy market value?

Yes, 533; no, 41.

What do you consider a fair estimate of the value of the fish caught in your apparatus and made worthless by dogfish?

\$250,405.

Do you kill the dogfish captured?

Yes, 511; no, 40.

In your opinion, does the dogfish do appreciable damage to the supply of edible and bait fish?

Yes, 578; no, 3.

Has there been an average total catch of fish this season?

Yes, 233; no, 353.

Do you note any increase or decrease in the numbers of dogfish in the past year?

Increase, 346; about same, 159; decrease, 86.

In your opinion, has there been an increase or decrease in the past ten years?

Increase, 544; decrease, 22; about the same, 2.

Do you make any use of dogfish?

Yes, 44; no, 506.

If so, what?

Livers.

What value do you place on the dogfish so used?

\$444.

What, in your opinion, would be the effect of a bounty on dogfish?

Good, 582; bad, 7.

Would it decrease the number of dogfish?

Yes, 523; no, 3.

Would it increase the profits of the fishermen? If so, how?

Yes, 569; no, 12.

Would it increase the supply of food fish, and thus benefit the public?

Yes, 587; no, 1.

Would a decrease in the number of dogfish lessen the expense of catching food fish?

Yes, 584; no, 3.

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## DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

### Today's Fish Market.

These prices are based on the last known sales.

Salt handline Georges codfish, \$5.25 per cwt. for large, \$4.25 for medium.

Salt trawl Georges codfish, \$5 for large, 4.00 for medium.

Salt hake, \$1.25.

Salt haddock, \$1.75.

Salt cusk, \$2.50.

Salt trawl bank codfish, \$4.50 for large, \$3.50 for medium, \$2.50 for snappers.

Newfoundland salt herring, in bulk, \$4.50 per bbl.

Newfoundland salt herring, barrelled, \$5.75 per bbl.

Newfoundland frozen herring for bait, \$3.00 per cwt.

Shore frozen herring, for bait, \$2.50 per cwt.

Fresh halibut, 10 cents per lb. for white and 6 1-2 cts. for gray.

Splitting prices of fresh fish, large cod, \$2.25 medium cod, \$1.37 1-2; haddock, 86 cts; hake, 85 cts.; cusk, \$1.40; pollock, 65 cts.

### Boston.

Sch James S. Steele, 4500 haddock, 2000 cod.

Haddock, \$2.75; large cod, \$3; market cod, \$1.75.

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### Herring Notes.

Sch. Henry M. Stanley has completed the discharge of her cargo of frozen herring at New York and loaded coal for this port.

Sch. Avalon, which took her cargo of frozen herring to Philadelphia, arrived here this morning with coal for Montgomery.